

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 EB-11 COA-02

COME-00 H-03 OPIC-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

INT-08 SS-20 NSC-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 AGR-20 EUR-25 EA-11 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9352

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2210

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EFIS, BDIS, PE

SUBJ: STARKIST CONSUMO HUMANO PROBLEM RESOLVED FAVORABLY

REF: LIMA 2123

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL MARCH 20, MINISTER OF FISHERIES TANTELEAN INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT, AT HIS INITIATIVE, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FORMALLY APPROVED MARCH 19 STARKIST USE OF ITS CONSUMO HUMANO ASSETS AS ITS SHARE IN THE NEW JOINT VENTURE COMPANY, COPE. TANTELEAN CONFIRMED THAT THESE ASSETS WOULD FORM APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL ASSETS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT TWO PROBLEMS HAD ARISEN IN REGARD TO FORMING COMPANY; THE FIRST CONCERNED THE "RELIABILITY" OF THE PRIVATE PERUVIAN WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO PUT UP APPROXIMATELY 21 PERCENT OF THE SHARES, AND THE SECOND CONCERNED GOP NEED FOR FURTHER ASSETS IN ORDER TO FORM COMPANY.

2. STARKIST REPRESENTATIVE LATER TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE ALSO HAD LEARNED FROM RELIABLE GOP SOURCES THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECIDED IN STARKIST'S FAVOR. THE REPRESENTATIVE, IN EXPLANATION OF TANTELEAN'S COMMENTS CONCERNING PRIVATE PERUVIAN PARTICIPATION AND NEED FOR NEW
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ASSETS, SAID THAT GOP ALL ALONG HAS HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT

THE PERUVIAN PARTNER IN QUESTION, AND THAT HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMING COMPANY, BUT ONLY AT LOWER PERCENTAGE THAN ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED, WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY THE MINISTER MENTIONED NEED TO FIND OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR THE COMPANY.

3. STARKIST REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT HE DOUBTS THAT GOP WILL MAKE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DECISION, SINCE IT MERELY CONFIRMED WHAT GOP HAD SAID IT PLANNED TO DO ALL ALONG. HOWEVER, HE SPECULATED THAT AT SOME POINT IN NEAR FUTURE TANTELEAN WILL PROBABLY MAKE PUBLIC REFERENCE TO FACT STARKIST MOVING AHEAD WITH ITS JOINT VENTURE IN ORDER TO QUELL PUBLIC SUSPICIONS ABOUT FUTURE OF THE ENTERPRISE, SINCE MOST OF FISHING INDUSTRY HERE IS AWARE THAT STARKIST'S FUTURE WAS VERY MUCH IN DOUBT.

4. ON SEPARATE BUT RELATED ISSUE, TANTALEAN TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WELCOMES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ACCESS TO MARKETS WHICH STARKIST PRESENCE WILL GUARANTEE, MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT STARKIST BOATS WILL BE USED IN EXTENSIVE TRAWLING OPERATIONS. RE OTHER JOINT VENTURES, MINISTER SAID THAT POLES MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE THEIR FISHING OPERATION HERE (WE UNDERSTAND FAO REPRESENTATIVES HAD RECOMMENDED AGAINST POLES CONTINUING BECAUSE THEY USE LARGE FACTORY SHIPS THAT DEplete RESOURCES AND OFFER LESS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAN SMALLER VESSELS), BUT JAPANESE WILL CONTINUE. MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT WHILE SOVIETS ARE FISHING EXPERTS, PERU IS WARY OF USSR & US (SIC) "PENETRATION" INTO PERUVIAN NATURAL RESOURCES AND HAS THEREFORE NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO ACCEPT A SOVIET OFFER FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FISHING FIELD.

5. COMMENT: APPARENTLY THE ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS FOR STARKIST'S PRESENCE CARRIED THE DAY WITHIN GOP ALTHOUGH NOT WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE PROTECTIVE MANEUVERING ON THE PART OF THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES. NONETHELESS, WE ARE PLEASED THAT STARKIST WILL REMAIN HERE ON ITS ORIGNAL TERMS, AND THAT WE HAVE AVOIDED A POTENTIAL INVESTMENT DISPUTE ON THE HEELS OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ACCORD.
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